WHERE IS THAT FOOL PUP WHO WAGS HIS TAIL FOR PARS?!!
WHERE IS RAJENDRA?!!
SHUDDER
おおおo
SHUDDER
IN HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE GADHEVI'S STEAD, I, PRADALATA, WILL LOP OFF THE MONGREL'S HEAD, AND STUFF IT BACK INTO THE BELLY OF THE FEMALE DOG THAT GAVE BIRTH TO HIM!!!
THAT SCOUNDREL IS OF A MIND TO FORCE HIS ALLIES' LOSSES ONTO THE PARSIAN ARMY, ISN'T HE?
PRINCE ARSLAN/ PERHAPS YOU COULD GIVE THEM A DISPLAY OF THE VALOR OF PARSIAN KNIGHTS THAT IS SO FAMOUS IN YOUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES?/

THE HEROIC LEGEND OF ARSLAN

READY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
DARYUN!
VERY WELL.
I LEAVE THIS TO YOU.
I WILL SHOW THEM THE DEVOTION AND FEARLESSNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF PARS.

Chapter 43:
Ceremony of
the New Year

KA CRING
CLACK
CRK
CLACK
CRK
CLACK
CRK
CLACK
CRK

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
CACRING
CRING
CACRING
CRING
FIGHT BRAVELY, DARYUN...

RRHYAA!
FIGHT BRAVELY, DARYUN !!!
GRACRING

I HAVE ONE QUES-TION.
...
SPLASH
SPLASH
THAT'S RIGHT.
HEAR THAT TAHIR KISHWARD AND A MARZBÂN BY NAME OF BAHMAN OR THE LIKE ARE INSTALLED IN PESHAWAR.
WITH MY LESSER EXPERIENCE, I CANNOT COMPARE TO EITHER OF THEM.
ARE THOSE MEN STRONGER THAN YOU, A MAN WHO IS ONLY "A SIMPLE SOLDIER"?

...IT IS HOPELESS...
...I SEE.
...WE NEED HIM...
BOOOOM
ブォォォォン

...TO
...RY
...
...TO HAVE VIC...
...WE MUST UNLEASH THAT MON-STER...
GENER-AAAL !!!
GENERAL PRAD-ALATA FELL!!
ROOOAAAAR
!!

ATTACK !!!
RRRUMBLE
NOW'S THE TIME! WE'LL ATTACK THEM ON BOTH FLANKS WITH LORD BAHMAN'S ARMY!!
GAD-HEVI'S ARMY HAS BEEN SPLIT!
WAAAAHH

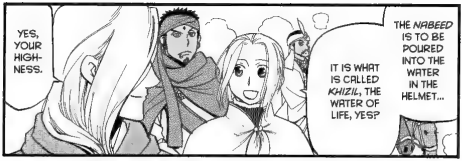
BAH! GADHEVI'S ARMY AND RAJENDRA'S ARMY HAVE THE SAME EQUIPMENT. I CAN'T TELL THEM APART!!
WAH
UNDER-STOOD!
DARYUN! YOU HANDLE THE REAR HALF OF GADHEVI'S ARMY!
WHEN THE WAR WITH SINDHURA IS OVER, WE WILL BE AZAT, FREED MEN!!
RAAAH!!!

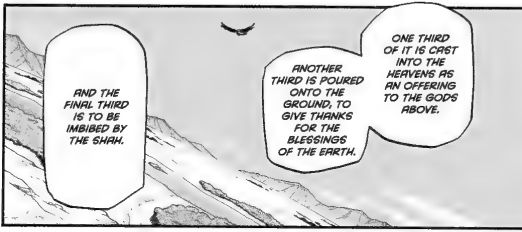
WAAAH
THE STRENGTH OF THE PARSIAN ARMY IS ASTOUNDING...
INCREDIBLE...
SUPERB, LORD DARYUN!

WHAT AN UN-INSPIRING BATTLE.
IN MY COUNTRY, WE HAVE NO HERO AS STRONG AS YOU!
OUR ENEMIES HAVE YET TO SEND THEIR OUTFIT OF WAR ELEPHANTS, AFTER ALL.
OH, IT WILL GET INTERESTING SOON ENOUGH.
TWO SIDES SMASHING AGAINST EACH OTHER ON A SPRAWLING FLATLAND, AND NOTHING MORE. IT WAS PURELY A BATTLE OF POWER SUPPRESSING POWER.
WE MUST UNLEASH THAT MONSTER TO HAVE VICTORY...
DID HE MEAN THE WAR ELEPHANTS ...?
THERE IS NOTHING HIS HIGHNESS CAN LEARN ABOUT MILITARY TACTICS FROM THIS.
WELL FOUGHT, EVERYONE!

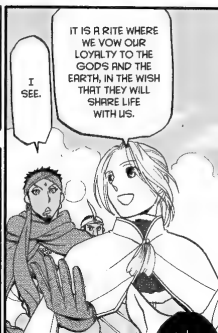
NAR-SUULUS!
WE'VE COME TO DELIVER THE AFTERNOON MEAL!
BY THE BY, PRINCE RAJENDRA.
WOULD THERE HAPPEN TO BE A CLEAR SPRING IN THIS AREA?
A SPRING?
HMM, WAS THERE ...?
IS IT FOR THE MEN AND HORSES TO DRINK?
NO.

THE NEW YEAR WILL BE DAWNING. WE MUST PERFORM THE CEREMONY OF THE NEW YEAR, IN THE PARSIAN TRADITION.
WHILE MY FATHER IS MISSING, I WILL HAVE TO CARRY OUT THE PARSIAN TRADITION!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YES.
HERE? ON THE BATTLE-FIELD?
FOR PRINCE ARSLAN IS HERE.
WHEN HE RETURNS TO THE CAMP, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SOLDIERS WILL OFFER A CUP OF NABEED, SYMBOLIZING THE BLOOD OF THE SHAH...
FIRST, BEFORE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR, HE WILL DON HIS ARMOR AND MAKE FOR A SPRING.
THERE, HE WILL REMOVE HIS HELMET, AND FILL IT WITH WATER FROM THE SPRING.


YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
IT IS WHAT IS CALLED KHIZIL, THE WATER OF LIFE, YES?
THE NABEED IS TO BE POURED INTO THE WATER IN THE HELMET...


AND THE FINAL THIRD IS TO BE IMBIBED BY THE SHAH.
ANOTHER THIRD IS POURED ONTO THE GROUND, TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE BLESSINGS OF THE EARTH.
ONE THIRD OF IT IS CAST INTO THE HEAVENS AS AN OFFERING TO THE GODS ABOVE.

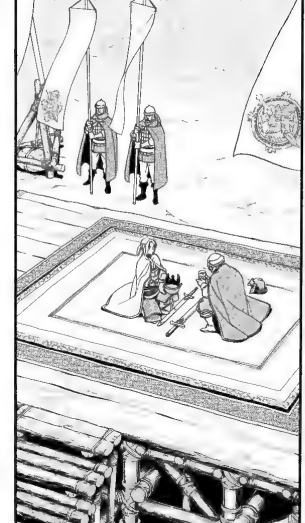
HIS HIGHNESS MUST VISIT THE SPRING ALONE, BUT WE CELEBRATE THE REMAINDER OF THE CEREMONY TOGETHER.
CAN IP
MAY WE WATCH, TOO?

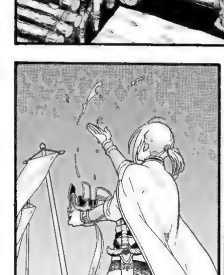

I SEE.
IT IS A RITE WHERE WE VOW OUR LOYALTY TO THE GODS AND THE EARTH, IN THE WISH THAT THEY WILL SHARE LIFE WITH US.

AS FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOLDIERS WHO WILL GIVE THE NABEED TO HIS HIGHNESS...

BAH-
MAN.
I WISH
FOR
YOU TO
DO IT.

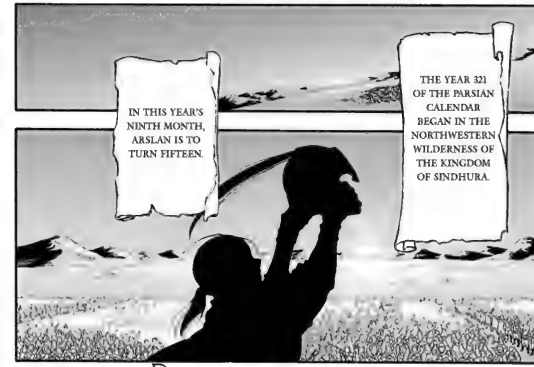
IT WOULD BE MY HUMBLE HONOR ...!
HEY, YOU.
GUIDE PRINCE ARSLAN.
ALL RIGHT/ WE WILL GLADLY ASSIST YOU IN FINDING A SPRING FOR THIS./
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
I'D LIKE TO SEE THE SPRING'S LOCATION BEFORE-HAND.
AS YOU WISH. THIS WAY.





ARSLAN!!
CHEER
ARSLAN!!

MAY YOUR WISDOM AND STRENGTH BRING PEACE TO THE KINGDOM AND ITS PEOPLE!
FAVORED CHILD OF THE GODS!
ELNAIL AL ASTRO! THE STAR WHICH SHINES IN THE HEAVENS!


IN THIS YEAR'S NINTH MONTH, ARSLAN IS TO TURN FIFTEEN.
THE YEAR 321 OF THE PARSIAN CALENDAR BEGAN IN THE NORTHWESTERN WILDERNESS OF THE KINGDOM OF SINDHURA.

...HE STILL LIVES
IT: BY THE NINTH MONTH

わはは
WA HA HA HA HA
BWA HA HA HA HA
わはは
わはは
WA HA HA HA HA
WELL, CONGRATULATIONS, CONGRATULATIONS!
IT SEEMS YOUR CEREMONY CONCLUDED SAFELY!
THANKS TO YOUR AID, PRINCE RAJENDRA, WE WERE ABLE TO HOLD A SPLENDID CEREMONY FOR THE NEW YEAR.
HA HA HA
WHY, YOU AND I ARE PRACTICALLY BROTHERS NOW!
IF YOU ARE EVER TROUBLED, YOU CAN TELL ME ANYTHING !!
IF THERE IS EVER ANYTHING YOU WISH TO DISCUSS WITH ME, AS WELL, I WILL GLADLY LISTEN.
SMACK
SMACK
SMACK

...
THEN BY ALL MEANS, SPEAK.
WOULD YOU ACTU-ALLY, I ? HAVE SOME-THING TO DISCUSS WITH YOU IMMEDI-ATELY!
I DON'T THINK THERE IS MUCH POINT IN MY ARMY AND YOUR PARSIAN ARMY ADVANCING TOGETHER SIDE-BY-SIDE.
PLEASE LEAVE US, EVERYONE.
OH, RIGHT.
YOUR ARMY AND MINE WILL ACT SEPARATELY.
I'D LIKE TO PUT HIM A LITTLE OFF BALANCE.
THAT DAMN GADHEVI IS STILL KEEPING HIMSELF SHUT AWAY IN OUR ROYAL CAPITAL, URAIYUR.
MEAN-ING ?

WHAT SAY YOU, PRINCE ARSLAN?
WILL YOU COMPETE WITH ME TO SEE WHICH OF US IS ABLE TO GET INTO THE CAPITAL FIRST?
THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING.
WE WILL BROWBEAT THAT DAMN GADHEVI BOTH MENTALLY AND WITH MILITARY MIGHT!
I SEE.
IF I AM ABLE TO ENTER THE CAPITAL FIRST, WHAT WILL BE MY PRIZE?
OHP ARE YOU AGREEING TO MY PLAN?
I AM, BUT I MUST CONSULT WITH MY RIDES BEFORE I CAN GIVE YOU A DEFINITIVE ANSWER.
I'M AFRAID I CANNOT MAKE SUCH AN IMPORTANT DECISION ON MY OWN.
WHY NOT?
AREN'T YOU THE CROWN PRINCE OF PARS?

PRINCE ARSLAN.
AS YOUR FRIEND AND BROTHER AT HEART, LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE.
IT IS BETTER NOT TO LET YOUR SUBORDINATES BECOME TOO ARROGANT.
YOU ARE THEIR LORD.
A LORD GIVES COMMANDS, AND SUBORDINATES OBEY HIS COMMAND.
THAT IS WHAT HOLDS SOCIETY'S ORDER TOGETHER.
IF YOU ARE ALWAYS LISTENING TO YOUR SUBORDINATE'S OPINIONS, THEY WILL FORGET THEIR PLACE AND BEGIN TO MAKE LIGHT OF YOU.
CAUGHT A COLD?
ハックション!
HA-CHOO
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE.

BUT EVEN SO...
TO BEGIN WITH, IF THEY HAD NOT RESCUED ME, I COULD HAVE LOST MY LIFE MANY TIMES UP UNTIL NOW.
THEY ARE MUCH WISER AND STRONGER THAN MYSELF.
I WILL GIVE YOU MY ANSWER AFTER I HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR MORE TO THEIR BENEFIT TO ABANDON ME, YET THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ME.
FORMALLY, THEY ARE MY SUBORDI-NATES, BUT I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THEM.
A PLAN TO ADVANCE SEPA-RATELY ?

ONCE WE'RE ON SEPARATE PATHS, THAT TONE-DEAF PRINCE IS LIKELY TO KINDLY INFORM GADHEVI OF OUR ROUTE.
I HAVE TO AGREE.
... WE'D BE A DECOY.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?
IT'S JUST WHAT I'D EXPECT THAT PRINCE TO SCHEME UP.
DO YOUR THOUGHTS ALIGN WITH MINE, LADY FARRANGIS?
AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME, YES.
IF PRINCE GADHEVI WAS TO CLASH WITH THE PARSIAN ARMY, PRINCE RAJENDRA WOULD HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM IT.
THEN I SHOULD REJECT HIS PLAN AFTER ALL?
NO. PLEASE, AGREE TO HIS PLAN...
...ONLY, WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS ATTACHED.
YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU PROVISIONS, AND OXEN AND HORSES?!
YES.
ALSO, A MAP AND A GUIDE.

GIVEN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS SUBORDINATES, I HAD THOUGHT HIM TO BE A GREEDLESS MAN, BUT IN THE END HE WAS JUST ANOTHER GREEDY MERE MORTAL, THEN, WAS HE...
HE'S DEMANDING QUITE A LOT...
...AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION...
NO NEED.
PLEASE ALLOW US TO COPY YOUR OWN MAP NOW, PRINCE RAJENDRA.
GIVE THEM A FAKE MAP
VERY WELL! WE WILL PROVIDE IT ALL!
I WILL SEND THE MAP TO YOU LATER.
BRING THE MAP
...
...SO THAT IN THE DARK OF NIGHT, WE DO NOT MISTAKE YOUR ARMY FOR GHADEVI'S AND ATTACK IT.
ALSO, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL US THE ROUTE YOU WILL BE TAKING...

CALL JAS-WANT!

NOW, FOR YOUR GUIDE... LET'S SEE...

I AM JASWANT.

YOU CALLED FOR ME, YOUR HIGH-NESS?

AH, YOU ARE THE MAN WHO GUIDED ME TO THE SPRING...

JARS-WRANT.
WE WILL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
DO YOU SEE IT, LORD DARYUN?
I DO.
I'VE BEEN WATCHING HOW HE CARRIES HIMSELF SINCE HE GUIDED US TO THE SPRING.
THAT MAN ...
... IS VERY SKILLED WITH THE SWORD.